



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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October 27, 1977

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Mr. Joseph Simanis
6650 Barnaby Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015

Dear Mr. Simanis:

Your October 4 letter to Patt Derian raised a valid question regarding the U.S. commitment to human rights, considering the nature of the October 4 Washington Post article to which you referred.

I am assuming that you have followed the media reporting since October 4 and have seen that the United States delegation has expressed its concern, in detail, regarding actions by CSCE states in violation of the Final Act's Principle VII and Basket III. In particular, for instance, we have asked the other delegations whether it is in fact inconsistent with Helsinki obligations for Czechoslovakia to have tried people for their involvement with Charter '77. We have stressed the rights of people to communicate with one another, across frontiers, and have suggested that Soviet and Czechoslovak interference with the mails is in violation of Principle VII and X, in Basket I.

By the end of the Conference, early next year, I believe the record of debate will reflect a very strong, detailed U.S. commitment to seeking better overall compliance to the Helsinki accords. What is clear, however, is that we cannot prejudge whether the Soviet or East European governments will be persuaded by our view that greater government respect for the rights of the individual is

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distinctly in the mutual interest of all CSCE states. Nonetheless, we will press this line of thought at Belgrade unflinchingly, and continue to do so directly in bilateral discussions even after the Conference ends.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Schneider
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Human Rights

Drafted by:HA/CBrody/lj